

CLOSING CERTAIN STREETS, ROADS, OR HIGHWAYS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JANUARY 15, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

MR. ZIHLMAN, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, sub-
mitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1179]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1179) to authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to close certain streets, roads, or highways in the District of Columbia rendered useless or unnecessary by reason of the opening, extension, widening, or straightening, in accordance with the highway plan of other streets, roads, or highways in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

This bill provides for the closing of certain streets that are now useless because of the opening and extension of other streets. In many cases they are a part of the old county road system running diagonally across the squares established by the highway plan, but the commissioners have no authority to close them without an act of Congress, and the title to the land is still vested in the District.

The bill further gives to the District Commissioners the same authority they now have for the closing of alleys, but provides that the consent of the owners of the property abutting on the street, road, or highway, or part of street, road, or highway, to be closed be obtained, and unless said consent is obtained the commissioners are without authority to authorize the closing.

There is submitted herewith a letter from the District Commissioners recommending the passage of this act.

DECEMBER 11, 1923.

HON. STUART F. REED,
*Chairman Committee on the District of Columbia,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to transmit herewith a draft of a bill authorizing them to close certain streets, roads,

and highways in the District of Columbia rendered useless or unnecessary by reason of the opening, extension, widening, or straightening, in accordance with the highway plan, of other streets, roads, or highways in the District of Columbia, which they request to be introduced and enacted.

The bill provides specifically for the closing of Broad Branch Road between Jocelyn and Thirty-first Streets, Piney Branch Road between Spring Road and Blair Road, Pierce Mill Road between Tilden Street and Wisconsin Avenue, Belt Road between Wisconsin Avenue and Chevy Chase Circle, Colfax Street through square 712, Queens Chapel Road between Bladensburg Road and Irving Street, and Grant Road between Wisconsin Avenue and Connecticut Avenue. Provision is made in the bill for the reversion of title to the land to the owners of the abutting property, the District having only an easement over the streets, roads, or highways to be closed. Unless the consent of the owners of all the property abutting on the street, road, or highway, or the part of the street, road, or highway, to be closed is obtained, the commissioners will be without authority to authorize the closing. It is evident, therefore, that no injustice will be done to the owners of the abutting property. In most of the cases the closing will not affect the abutting property adversely as the opening of the streets shown on the highway plan will render the streets to be closed unnecessary for traffic purposes.

The commissioners have authority under the Code of Law for the District of Columbia to close alleys or parts of alleys that may have been or may hereafter be, in their judgment, rendered useless or unnecessary by the opening, extension, widening, or straightening of public streets or highways, and the accompanying bill is designed to extend the authority now vested in the commissioners in respect to alleys to streets, roads, or highways.

The commissioners are of the opinion that the proposed legislation if enacted will promote the development of unimproved property and will encourage the dedication of new streets in accordance with the highway plan.

Very respectfully,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
By CUNO H. RUDOLPH, *President*.

